

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in view of the RCE submitted herewith and in view of the present Amendment and the following Remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 28-49 are pending. Claims 28-35, 37-45, and 47-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil (U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,318) in view of Sequeira (U.S. Pat. No. 6,222,530) and further in view of Maresco (U.S. Pat. No. 6,418,458). Claims 36, and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neal, Sequeira, Maresco and Kemmel et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,053). Claims 30, 31, 37 and 38 have been amended and claim 49 has been cancelled. After careful review of the claims and references, it is believed that the claims are in allowable form and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 28-35, 37-45 and 47-48 have been rejected as being obvious over O'Neil in view Sequeira and Maresco. Independent claim 28, 37, 47 and 48 call for identifying a processor affinity and assigning the thread to a processor within the multiprocessor system according to the affinity. The Office Action indicates (Para. 9 & 10) that the claimed identifying of processor affinity, and assigning the thread according to the affinity is described by O'Neil at Col. 12, line 58 to Col. 13, ln 3. However, O'Neil does not describe a processor affinity or using the affinity to assign the thread. Rather, O'Neil merely describes a call thread requesting a router thread which selects an agent or puts the call into a call queue. (Col. 12, lines 58-65). If the call is put in the call queue, the router thread then finds the best agent to handle the call. (Col. 12, line 66 – Col. 13, line 3). This describes a call routing process performed by the call and router

threads but does not describe in any way the identification of processing affinity or assigning the thread to one of the multi processors based on the affinity. This feature is also not described in the other cited references, and therefore the independent claims 28, 37, 47 and 48 are distinguishable over O'Neil and any combination of the other references. In addition, claims 29-36 and 38-46 are dependent upon independent claims 28, and 37, and are therefore distinguishable over the cited references for the same reasons.

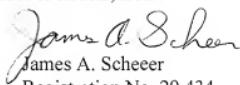
In addition, claim 30 has been amended to be directed to workflow priority (see p. 14), claim 31 has been amended to be directed to maintenance of a stack of tasks and sub-tasks when a sub-task is executed (see p. 20), and claim 38 has been amended to be directed to an affinity mask (see p. 23). Each of these features is not disclosed in the cited references and therefore they are believed to be further distinguishable for these reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Primary Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the

unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,
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